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ELSEWHEN
THE JOURNAL OF
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RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
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Volume Three
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IN THIS ISSUE:

Time, Ghosts and Dinosaurs
Historic Willard Library
The "Laws" of Time Travel
Matter, Energy and Thought
Personal Experiences
34567810
The Legend of the Lechuza
Parapsychology: Things to Think About
Ningyo (The Mermaid)
Deceptions: Ancient and Modern
12
Cat's Meow/Bread-Handed/Psychic Magic
13
Letters to the Editor
14
Fortean Research On A Budget
Early Super-Culture in Jeopardy?
Tip #4
15
16

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FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings, friends! Welcome to the twelfth issue of Elsewhen.

As you can immediately see, we continue to make changes to the format of this publication. I finally bought a scanner and will be integrating more graphics and illustrations into issues of Elsewhen. Visual images always make a big impact and I hope you will agree that this addition in the next several issues is positive. I want this publication to be the best it can be with the limited resources we have.

Many of you have been curious as to what I look like. So, I have scanned a photo of myself above. It will appear in each issue. Also, I have scanned a photo of our new Chief Editorial Assistant, Ashley Kristensen. It appears to the right of and above this paragraph. In the distant future,

when the finances are available, I will acquire a much better quality scanner. That way I can improve the clarity a lot.

I want to thank all of the kind words I have received for SUPRA's official logo. My former neighbor, Eva, did a tremendous job from a basic idea I had. I recently scanned the original drawing and touched it up a bit to sharpen up the stars and part of the hourglass. This logo will help to immediately identify SUPRA.

This issue contains a great variety of material. I want to especially call your attention to the first part of a four-part series on the monsters of Japan. Also of note are the continuing great submissions from faithful Hugh Trotti, Kimberly Wajer and Bufo Calvin. Thanks to them, Elsewhen is still here!

Mark

Temporal Tidbits

TIME, GHOSTS AND DINOSAURS

by Hugh H. Trotti

During the latter part of May 1991, one of the chief "Bermuda Triangle" mysteries appeared to be clarified, if not solved. For those who missed the news, the "famous five" missing propeller-driven World War II warplanes were reported to be found (Time, May 27, 1991, p. 72). Whether or not the discovery of the airplanes at the bottom of the ocean represents the "famous five" of "Bermuda Triangle" argument or some other unfortunate flyers, we are reminded of the more famous case by Time's article. That case involved five planes and their crews that vanished and were never seen again. [Editor's Note: The planes later turned out not to be Flight 19.]

Theorists have wondered if they were snatched up by UFOs, or perhaps wandered into another dimension - or through some "door" into into the future or the past other times or places.

Now, with treasure-hunters having located planes on the ocean floor more than 120 fathoms deep, and just ten miles or so from the coast of Florida and Fort Lauderdale, we are lead to revisit the "problem" of the "Triangle." We recall that mystery buffs have listed ship after ship (as well as aircraft), that have disappeared in or near the general area. Usually, if one vanishes on or over an ocean, the presumption would be that one sank into it. Sudden storms occur, and pleasure-boaters and pleasure-flyers have been known to do their boating or flying while drunk. But it had also been claimed that the operation of compasses is

somehow affected in the area of the so-called "Triangle." Perhaps puzzles remain.

In the same issue of Time, in an [unrelated] article on Orlando, Florida, we find the following rather peculiar reference on page 54, headed "Strange But True":

The oddest natural curiosity in the area is Spook Hill, 50 miles south of Disney World, where drivers can shift their cars into neutral and mysteriously roll backward "up" toward the top.

Somewhere I've heard of a similar place out west, but the source reference escapes me. Such reports will be retained and placed on our list of "mysterious places" to be explored when or if possible in the future.

We recall that gravitational anomalies exist: One of our spacecraft, when rounding the back side of the Moon, experienced puzzling orbital fluctuations or variations in the height above the lunar surface.

With these things in mind, we note mention of "unusual circular magnetic and gravitational anomalies" in connection with a possible meteoritic or cometary crater on the north coast of the Yucatán peninsula in Mexico (A. R. Hildebrand & W. V. Boynton, "Cretaceous Ground Zero," Natural History, June 1991, p. 52). Can it be that sometimes our compasses are zapped, not by little gray men, but by a product of the forces that did in the dinosaurs? Such would, at least, be a natural explanation of magnetic gyrations that we could live with. The same article details evidence for ancient comet or meteor hits in or near the Gulf of Mexico-single or multiple really large and catastrophic events of about 65 million years ago.

Could it be that the lunar mascons-structures under the Moon's surface that might create gravity fluctuations are eccentricities in a body's surface caused by comet or meteorite impacts in the past? The controversial but interesting author Ivan Sanderson pointed out in one of his books what he termed "vile vortices" - places around the globe where peculiar things may occur. If these exist, can the possibility of past impacts explain them? We speculate In here, admittedly, but the idea is worth mentioning.

addition to the problems for pleasure boats off Florida's coast that we might expect - drunken boaters, sudden storms, and perhaps even drug pirates, we note the many tales of problems with compass gyrations. What we are approaching here is the question: Given that 65 million

years ago a gigantic impact in or near the Gulf of Mexico took place, could such an event leave some sort of "eccentricity" in the earth's surface that might cause compass problems as far away as the area of the so-called "Bermuda Triangle"? This is proposed here not as a fact, nor yet as a theory, but only as a question.

The thought of a vortex leads us now to the idea of time itself, which we will here propose to be a structure like a vortex but different - a spiral. To explain how there could be such things as past-future or future-past temporal impingements, let's assume (for the sake of argument) that time is not linear, as proceeding simply in a straight-line manner from past to future, as:

Past.

Future

but rather that it could possess a spiral form (we are inspired by the shape of certain astronomical structures to this thought), so that it might move in the following fashion:

or perhaps like

a spring shape:

Now, if such a thing is possible, than let us suppose that some oddity in the structure of time itself may cause it to sometimes bend in such a fashion that portions of differing

[PAGE BREAK]

"segments" may actually (or almost) touch each other, in the following way:

or, again, if in

a spring shape:

The beauty of such a structure is that it does away with the obvious difficulty of a ghost being a living creature from another time. That difficulty is the problem of "time travel" pointed out by me in my book, Beasts and Battles (New York: Rivercross Publishing, 1989, Chapter 12: "Time Machine Gods?"). The problem is simply what was discovered by people like Copernicus and Galileo: As time passes, the earth moves through space.

If the earth moves like this, how is it possible to "see into the past" (much less "visit" it), if the past is a few million miles away in space (or was, as it existed then). You see the difficulty! If a ghost is simply a living person somehow perceived through Time, how could such by perceived across millions of miles of space? The thought gives new meaning to the term far-sighted!

However, if Time itself is not an illusion as some claim, but rather has some structure-perhaps such as we have noted-then we do not have to look across millions or more miles of space to perceive something from the past, provided the structure impinged upon itself at certain points

for reasons not clear to us. We know that space can be "bent" according to modern physical thought. Could it be that time also could bend or be bent? It would not then require the need for travelling faster than light to travel potentially in time (as some people speculate).

It is often said that "nothing can exceed the speed of light." In one of his books, Einstein wrote than such was not true of his General Theory. Of course, this may be beside the point, if we are somehow trapped under the auspices of the Special Theory and have no access to the environmental use of the General Theory. But, if time bends towards us, we may not need any such access. Depending upon how close the time segments are to one another, and whether they touch or not, we have the interesting possibility of merely seeing the past or even entering it, and of seeing into (or entering) the future. For the most part, we hear contentions about the past and not about the future-but what that might indicate is not altogether clear.

Time itself should be more than an illusion. Time indicates change; perhaps time is only the perception of change. Certainly, with change, we would probably not perceive time as a concept. Most of us would certainly admit that change takes place, unlike certain ancient philosophers who sought the unchanging as the real existence. If change exists, time exists.

Both past and future exist for you only if you have access to them-which normally you do not, at least as a choice of "real" places. Memory and records are another matter, and do not necessarily show that the past and the future coexist. This seems the be poetic but doubtful (with the possible exceptions which we have mentioned in regard to spiral or spring structures of hypothetical contention).

Aside from modern stories about "time doors", we recall that the Romans celebrated shields that fell from the sky: Upon the Scythians there fell "...from the sky four implements, all of gold-a plough, a yoke, a battle-axe, and a drinking cup" (Herodotus, Persian Wars, Book IV, 5: Modern Library, p. 292). What are we to make of these and other such tales in history, both ancient and modern? These are things hard to believe and harder yet to prove, but interesting nevertheless and worth discussion. Even blood has "fallen from the sky": Once on Richard Lion-Heart's new castle in France. It has been argued that "ignorant" people of the Middle Ages would not know blood if they saw it, but surely they lived nearer to nature and such things than we do today. Because it may have been considered some sort of religious chastisement, does not make it any less peculiar in our view.

Things that Go Bump
Historic Willard Library
by Kimberly Wajer

Hello again from your travelling correspondent! Today the news comes from Evansville, Indiana.

In Evansville's historic downtown stands Willard Library. Built in 1876 and opened in 1885, ghost hunters have been seeking the library's mysterious "Lady in Grey" since 1937 when she was first spotted by a janitor restoking the furnace. She has been seen on and off since then, with the most recent sighting recorded being in 1983.

She has been described as a woman in dress appropriate to the latter half of the 19th century, completely grey. Besides walking the library, where she favors the children's room, she has manifested her presence in other ways. One woman reported water going on by itself in the restroom, and many have told of smelling an unidentifiable perfume.

This story, however, seems to have a slightly different twist. A psychic stopped at Willard once while in town to visit the University of Southern Indiana. She said the building was not haunted, but rather that the ghost haunted the field on which the library was built. The ghost, she said, was trapped in the building at the time it was built!

During my visit to Willard, I took the opportunity to snap some photos. I didn't see anything during this visit, but who knows?

[We are very interested in receiving material to go in the "Things that Go Bump" column.
The Editor]

1.

Temporal Tidbits 2

The "Laws" of Time Travel

by Bufo Calvin

The Law of Uncontrollability
travel is a natural phenomenon."
NICKNAME: "The Spoilsport Law"
COMMENT: This is the cornerstone of the theory
"Time
PROOF: Logical deduction based on the irrationality of certain recurring phenomena and the experience of time travelers.
POSSIBLE REFUTATION: When someone can time travel to somewhere specific that someone else suggests and bring back proof.

2. The Law of Exploitability "Time travel
can be utilized by anyone with the right math, enough data, and the means to get to the point of occurrence.
NICKNAME: "The Carrot Law"
COMMENT: This is the fun part
PROOF: Doing it. The projection of patterns might satisfy the first two parts.

3.

The Law of Automatic Return

"Chrononauts will return to the time from which they started, unless acted upon by another time-stream while in the new era.
NICKNAME: "The Boomerang Law"
COMMENT: Is time travel ever permanent? Can we really cite a case of an anachronistic object which could not have been created by a chrononaut out of indigenous materials while on a temporary visit?
PROOF: Data analysis
POSSIBLE REFUTATION: The discovery of any object clearly showing a composition of anachronistic materials.

4.
"Some
The Law of Local Effect
geographic locations have a higher than average incidence of temporal anomalies.
NICKNAME: "The Window Law"
COMMENT: Here come the vile vortices and triangles!
PROOF: Data analysis
POSSIBLE REFUTATION: No geographical bias determined once the sociological reasons for reportage variance are eliminated.
5. The Law of Periodicity
"The frequency of temporal anomalies in any given area varies, creating periods of increased activity.
NICKNAME: "The Flap Law"
COMMENT: Similar, but not the same as the Law of Evolution of Effect.
PROOF: Data analysis
POSSIBLE REFUTATION: Patterns shown to be due to the attention focused on an area after a spectacular experience, etc.
"The
6. The Law of Evolution of Effect
likelihood of visitation from any given era varies throughout time.
NICKNAME: "The That-Was-Then Law"
COMMENT: This one could be the key to the whole thing. If dinosaurs were appearing in Europe in the Dark Ages, they could be dragons, but they aren't appearing as frequently now. Instead, primitive hominids are more likely. The thing here is that the proportion is all wrong - instead of being separated by millions of years, they are only separated by hundreds.
PROOF: Analysis of historical data
POSSIBLE REFUTATION: Visitations are shown to be the same throughout history and they have just been interpreted differently.
7. The Law of Similar Selection

"In a given
region, similar objects are more likely to time
travel together than dissimilar ones.
NICKNAME: "The Birds-of-a-Feather Law"
COMMENT: This is based on the electromagnetic fields of
similar objects being of similar 'frequencies'.
Page 4

[PAGE BREAK]

PROOF: Data analysis
POSSIBLE REFUTATION: Data analysis showing multiple
travel by dissimilar objects when similar ones are available.
8. The Law of Structural Integrity
object will 'chrono-travel' as a whole.
NICKNAME: "The That's-a-Relief Law"
PROOF: Data analysis
"An
POSSIBLE REFUTATION: Observation of pieces traveling
separately (dismemberment by displacement).
9. The Law of Conservation of Displacement
"The greater the distance of geo-displacement,
the less likely it is to occur."
NICKNAME: "The Miles per Gallon Law"
This explains why one doesn't leave the
COMMENT:
That takes incredible
Earth while 'chrono-traveling'.
amounts of energy, and the chronons and antichronons
simply don't tend to have that much.
PROOF: Data analysis
POSSIBLE REFUTATION: Analysis of data shows an
equally high incidence of high magnitude displacement.
10. The Law of Non-Penetration - "A time-
traveling object will tend to choose a path of least
physical resistance in its geo-travel."
NICKNAME: "The Scotty Was Wrong Law"
you;
COMMENT: This explains why your clothes go with
it is easier to take them with you than to get them off of
you. It also explains why one does not appear halfway in
and halfway out of a wall.
PROOF: Data analysis showing that the physical barriers at
the time are respected.
POSSIBLE REFUTATION: Data analysis showing that
intervening barriers make no difference.
A
Theories & Ideas
Matter, Energy and Thought:
The Great Circle of Science and Mysticism
by Kimberly Wajer
In the past 100 years science and technology have leapt

forward, taking mankind from the Industrial Revolution to the Space Age.

But, in this world of microchips and microwaves, where does man himself fit in?

Mystics have for ages described man in terms of his spirit being made of many energy fields or auras. Most scientists, in their quest to discover the hows and whys of the universe, have habitually moved away from such beliefs. Science, however, with its birth in philosophy and mysticism, has now come full-circle, though many do not see it so.

The universe is now commonly described as being made of matter and energy. Matter is made of atoms and energy is said to be made up of units called quanta. Atoms consist of particles called protons, neutrons, and electrons, as well as many other even smaller particles called quarks, neutrinos, etc. These subatomic particles are also thought to be made of quanta. What all these means, basically, is that matter and energy are made of the same "stuff".

An atom is held together by the forces of magnetic attraction between the nucleus and the "floating" electrons. The nucleus is made up of positively charged protons and neutrons, which have no charge. The electrons, which circle the nucleus, are negatively charged. The number of electrons and protons in the atom are equal-each positive attracts a negative. The electrons do not, however, fall into the nucleus because the closer they get to the nucleus, the closer they get to each other. The like negative charges repel each other, driving them further apart. These forces of attraction and repulsion cause the electrons to form more or less stable orbits around the nucleus. In this way, an energy field is created. It stands to reasons that if many atoms are joined together, as they are in forming matter, that the energy field created would increase with the number of atoms.

Auras, therefore, seem a perfectly logical phenomenon. But, as many may ask, why do auras largely seem to be prominent only around living things? Living things are constantly undergoing massive chemical reactions as growth occurs, cells die and are replaced, etc. Chemical reactions expend large amounts of energy, hence large energy fields. Inanimate objects also have auras, but as any changes are small and usually very slow to occur, they are slight.

Seeing auras may be explained by the fact that each person's range of hearing or sight is different; some people may simply be more sensitive to the frequencies of auras. Other "psychic" phenomena, such as telepathy and clairvoyance, could also be explained by the interaction of fields. They could be the result of the latent ability in the brain (which is really a giant electrochemical circuit) to transmit or receive signals along frequencies up to now unrecognized.

So it appears that the conclusions drawn from what the scientists have discovered are pretty much what the mystics have been saying all along. Just a theory.
Comments? Write to Kimberly % SUPRA

Personal Experiences

A Subconscious Interlude

by LeRoy Nash

While serving time in the Utah State Prison many years ago, I was in the main yard during a regular recreation period. I was about thirty years of age, in excellent physical condition, and was waiting to play the winner at the handball court.

An argument developed as to who should play the winners. During the argument a very dangerous man blew his top and leapt at me with a knife with a blade about six inches long.

I am an excellent boxer and usually unafraid when confronted by dangerous people. I was very alert when he dove towards me with the knife extended in a business-like manner.

My conscious mind shut off right then.

The next thing I was consciously aware of was that my attacker and I were standing on the grass about twenty yards from where he had begun his attack. That fact instantly registered in my mind.

The next fact that registered was that my attacker was standing about five feet in front of me, facing me. He was glaring with intensity, getting ready to make another move.

At the same moment I realized that I'd be following a strict and definite physical plan of action during the fight. My subconscious mind had projected, and I recognized it, that the next move he was going to make would be a particular type of knife thrust.

The projected plan was that I knew exactly how he
I
would do it and exactly what my reaction would be:
would slap his knife-hand aside with my right had, then give his arm a little push with my left hand so as to make him complete a half turn. During that action I'd be cocking a hard right to give him a power shot to the back of his neck that would kill him.

At that instant my conscious mind not only recognized the plan, but recoiled at what seemed to be an unexpected premeditated murder without just cause.

Simultaneously, there was a sharp difference of opinion as to whether I should follow that plan, or if my conscious mind was to control the pending action. The difference of opinion was apparently between my subconscious, which has created the plan, and my conscious mind, which hesitated to accept the plan.

Instantly, my conscious mind shut off and I suddenly seemed to be floating in the air high above a city building

with a pointed steeple. I was surprised and wondering what the city scene before me amounted to. Not only was I floating maybe two hundred feet in the air, so it seemed to me, but was facing a street leading away from the building I was floating above.

The building I was floating above was at a cross street in the small city. I was facing a street with a four-story, old-fashioned hotel directly across the corner, and the street was lined with what seemed to be small shops. It extended in front of my maybe four or five blocks. At the end of the street I could see a large building, about eight stories tall, that had many blue windows along the side that I could see. And there was what sounded like a huge pump going in that distant building with the blue windows. I could hear it clearly.

Directly across the street was what appeared to be something like a used car lot, except that instead of cars it had two rows of what appeared to be white Eskimo igloos about six feet high.

While I was curiously wondering where I was and what the heck was going on, that little street of the many shops [began to fill with] people coming out of the shops.

I got the impression that they were proprietors. Twenty or thirty of them came out onto the sidewalk and headed towards the building I was hovering above, walking rapidly and making angry sounds. They were too far away for me to distinguish any of their words.

They rushed towards the front door of the building beneath me, a door I could not see. When they reached the doorway, some of them began kicking furiously on the door and loudly demanding that the inhabitants, whoever they were, come out and do their job running things. Something was amiss.

awareness.

At that instant my mind snapped back to conscious

There I was again, still standing in the same place on the lawn, facing my opponent.

To my surprise (I don't remember this registering the first time I was aware of our new position) my attacker was standing leaning forward, with his hair hanging down. He was covered with sweat and was breathing heavily. He was bug-eyed with astonishment and appeared to be exhausted from exertion.

I was not sweating or tired in the least. I was as calm and rational as I am sitting at my typewriter. I calmly and coolly told him he'd better put the knife away, as the cops would soon see him with it and he'd be locked up for a long time. After all, it would be for nothing, as we had nothing to even be mad about, and I'd probably kill him if he

He thought it over a few seconds, then said,

continued.

"Yeah." He put the knife under his shirt, turned and left.

At that time I walked over to a group of my associates, men with whom I boxed regularly, and asked them what the hell had happened. They finally understood that I did not know what had happened during the altercation. They told me I fought the most brilliant fight they'd ever seen. There wasn't a scratch or sore spot on me anyplace. My hair wasn't even mussed up. To this day, I don't remember any of that time period.
The above is true in every detail.
Page 6
Page 7

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Ye Folklore Corner
The Legend of the Lechuza
by Alan Peschke
Most readers of Elsewhen are probably familiar with reports of the crypto-creature known as the "thunderbird." Several years ago Texas had its own version of this phenomenon, commonly known as the Big Bird. Having never encountered the Big Bird myself (other than the occasional crane or buzzard), I nevertheless stumbled across an obscure folk legend that may have some relation to the thunderbird and the Big Bird. This is the Mexican folk legend of the lechuza.
A quick glance in The University of Chicago Spanish-English Dictionary reveals that the word "lechuza" is simply Spanish for "owl." In the local Mexican dialect of my home area [in Texas] it means more specifically "screech owl."
However, the folk tale of the lechuza goes deeper than this.
According to Francis Edward Abernethy, in The Folklore of Texan Cultures (Encino Press, 1974), "...the lechuza is a woman who, having sold her soul to the devil, becomes a screech owl at night." The lechuza closely ties in with the bruja, or witch, and is sometimes considered more or at least, other-than human.
As with many folk tales, there are contradicting bits of information. Again according to Abernethy, "Some say that even in the form of birds lechuzas retain the faces of hideous women.
This suggests that the lechuza is of normal size for an owl. However, Ed Syers, in Ghost Stories of Texas (Texan Press, 1981), says, "She [the bruja] knows the secret of becoming her own familiar-a self-transformation, usually to a lechuza, or screech owl ... Or, if she disdains the extra step, she may make incredibly long journeys herself [emphasis mine], flying high over the housetops..." This suggests that the lechuza may retain a

larger human-like size, and with the addition of wings, would make an adequate Big Bird.

The nature of the lechuza herself (for in the legends it is invariably female) is of a malignant sort of bogey-woman. In personal interviews, the most common tale related to me was that she sits outside one's door and makes a crying sound, like an infant. Then, "if you go outside to see what it is, it gets you." It also seems, from personal accounts, that the lechuza is easily recognizable from a mere screech owl-another clue that it is usually considered human-sized. Seeing a screech owl during the day is considered by some to be unlucky; seeing the lechuza by night (for she never

appears during daylight) is calamitous, and usually signals the death of a family member, much like the banshee of Celtic lore. The lechuza is thought to possess sorcerous powers, especially those dealing with darkness, illness, and death.

She is thought to be impervious to bullets and perhaps even immortal. Signs that one has been visited by the lechuza are scratches on the bedpost, door, or window-sill that can't be explained.

The most telling clue that the lechuza is thought to be of a large size is also told by Abernethy: "The tellers of lechuza stories at times point out the likenesses of their tales with ... the Harpy of Greek mythology. This suggests that she must be at least human-sized, if not larger.

In any case, if we ever do manage to explain the mysterious thunderbird, I doubt that it will have anything to do with so malicious a legend as the lechuza.

Even so, tales of the lechuza are some of the most violent and disturbing in Texas folklore, and it seems that among some people, belief in the creature still persists.

[Great article, Alan! Thanks for submitting it! Do any of the readers have anything to add to this? Subjects like this deserve more research. The Editor]

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Elsewhen
is due out around
September 5, 1992

Psychic Scenarios
Parapsychology: Things to Think About

PREFIXION:

by James Baker

A special variant of precognition that is more of a direct Prefixion or the experiencing than merely knowing. prefixional trespass may occur in what seem to be or actually are out-of-body states. In prefixion, the prefixionist apparently experiences anterior elements that will be represented in the prefixionist's normal waking state. Prefixional experiences may not be recognized as such If that is the case, during the time of their occurrence. there would not be a conscious foreknowing. Prefixional experiences may consist of imagery that to varying degrees is non-isomorphic. This is inescapably true inasmuch as the prefixionist acts in a prefixional body. The prefixional body be invisible-a singular experience may indeed-despite the presence of vivid somesthetic and extrasomesthetic sensations. Such a body may be capable of floating. even Prefixional experiences suggest that they involve elements that are continually active on a subliminal and cryptic level in normal cognitive processes and, therefore, are operative in our daily waking experience of the world of phenomena. In connection with this possibility, it should be pointed out that floating figures (prefixional daimons) other than the prefixionist, may be present in the prefixional That such figures should be floating, renders situation. them non-isomorphic.

It is possible that prefixion is more functional than precognition. In fact, we may speculate that precognition in its varied forms may be based upon the constitutive elements of prefixion.

While the prefixional experience entails or necessitates a non-identification with the (physical) body, that non-identification would not necessarily indicate a true and massive separation from the body. The prefixional body may not be the so-called "astral body" of occultism or the pneuma (the religionists' "soul"). The "astral body" of occultism probably should be renamed the pneuma.

It is possible that prefixional elements may be involved We may speculate that in such in poltergeist behavior. behavior a substratal facet of objects may be acted upon by the poltergeist-agent. The floating objects in the poltergeist field may involve some kind of suspensory medium that may be present in the prefixional situation.

speaking, objects that float about in the poltergeist
Strictly
operational field are probably not really suspended in the air but in another medium.

ISOMORPHISM:

In parapsychology, having a strict and exact accord, matching or correspondence of a precognitive or prefixional datum with its subsequent reappearance in the "fulfillment stage".

Hence, to the extent that a precognitive dream or prefixional experience is represented in the "fulfillment stage", it is isomorphic. The term is applicable to the imagery presented in the precognitive dream.

Such
isomorphic images may be referred to as prototypal images. While they may, with great fidelity, match the subsequent event or version, thus being presented as a kind of anterior base, they still might be derivative, that is, derived from still another base or matrix. Therefore, they may be regarded as having a cryptogenesis in an ultimate sense.

NON-ISOMORPHISM:

A term used to describe those images presented in a precognitive dream, in a prefixional trespass or other kinds of precognitive experience, that are not exactly matched in the fulfillment stage or phase. Non-isomorphism is likely to prevail in many instances of precognition. So, in our assessment of precognitive imaginal presentations, we may refer to varying degrees of non-isomorphism. Distortion and contamination of precognitive images, due to the blending of such images with ordinary dream-images, would entail non-isomorphism. In this context, normal or non-precognitive images would not fall into the category of non-isomorphism. It should be specially noted that there is a species of precognitive imagery that may be described as its essentially
non-isomorphic but that still retains
Thus prototypal images may
precognitive character.
undergo symbolic conversion. Future events may then be forecast by means of symbols. In this way the mechanics of precognitive behavior are quite similar to the mechanics of ordinary or non-precognitive dreams.

Non-isomorphic precognitive images, usually of a symbolic character, can be projected (usually invisibly) against a background or focalizing medium, as would be the case in reading tea leaves. But in crystal-gazing such symbolic images would not be invisible to the seer, but would simulate physical sense-perceptions.

Unusual Publications
Windows Portals Doorways $4.25, WW and the Gremlins $1, Time Cameras $6.75, Warps $8.50, STOP TIME! $2, Morongo Portal $3.50,

Time Travel Secrets $17.50, Invisibility $7.50, Dimensional Travel [AD] $14.50, Teleportation Package $165, Hyperdimensional Resonator $355, Dimensional Portal $285, with Interdimensional Crystals $385, Shipping [AD] $2.50, Advanced Catalog $1. D. French, PO Box 2010-AVDL, Sparks, NV 89432 U.S.A.

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MONSTER MENAGERIE

[Editor's Note: This is the first installment of a four-part series on the monsters of Japan.]

Ningyo (The Mermaid)

"BIBLIOGRAPHY"

by Kenji Ch■no

First, I must tell you that in Japan it is now widely believed that the mermaid is a misidentification of dugongs. This theory can be seen in the Chinese book of Natural History, (Chinese pronunciation is unknown to me), written in 1596 and comprising 52 volumes. Since Japanese culture was strongly influenced in the past by that of China, it prevailed in Japan.

Another ancient Chinese topography book, (author and year unknown, 18 volumes), dealt with many legendary monsters and ghost tales, including that of the mermaid (also called, Ryougyo). However, it was described as having four legs and crying like a human baby (fig. 1). It also referred to the "people of Teijinkoku", who look like the usual mermaid (fig. 2).

YDD

Fig. 1. The Ryougyo

Fig. 2. People of Teijinkoku

Several ancient Japanese books have the descriptions of mermaids. In Nihonshoki, the first official history book (from 720), there is a report that a mermaid was caught by a fisherman in the Gamou River, Shiga prefecture, in

April 617. In July of that same year, another one was said to have been caught in the net of fishermen of Osaka prefecture: "It was neither fish, nor human, so they had no idea what to call it."

of Mie

In Kokinchomonjuh (1254), fishermen prefecture caught three mermaids and sent them to a warrior,

(Taira no tadamori), who feared them very much and sent them back. Later those fishermen ate them and stated they were tasty. From this point, some now speculate that these "mermaids" were some sort of pinnipeds, like a seal.

All of these mermaids were described as fish with human faces (or with four legs), thus being different from the general and contemporary conception of the mermaid

- a human body and a fish's tail-which might have been introduced from Western countries during the Edo era [AD] (1603-1868).
*H**
Fig. 3. Mermaid in Wakansansaizue
The Wakansansaizue, edited by Terajima, Ryouan, in 1713, 105 volumes - the very first illustrated encyclopedia ever edited in Japan introduced the mermaid with a human body and fish's tail (fig. 3).
We can see the mermaid in picture of Rokubutsushinshi, written by Ohtsuki, Gentaku, in 1786. This is a manual on six special medicines introduced from the West, including "Mermaid", whose bones were thought to stop bleeding. This particular mermaid was obviously copied from French natural historian Lois Renard's "Poissons, écrevisses et crabs de diverses couleurs et figures extraordinaires que l'on trouve autor des îles Molucques et sur les côtes des terres Australes," 1718-19 (fig. 4 & 5). This book also includes the observation report: "...in the middle of the 18th Century, female mermaid with reddish-black hair, white and bright eyes, white skin, woman's breast and hands, was seen. Lower body was invisible in the sea."
15
Fig. 4. Mermaid in Rokubutsushinshi
Fig. 5. Mermaid from Renard's book
LEGENDS
Various legends on mermaids exist. Shikoutei, an emperor of the Chinese Shin Dynasty, used mermaids' oil for a lamp, which would not go out. This implies that the mermaid was a symbol of eternity. This legend later changed in Japan, where it was believed that if we ate its meat, we would gain immortality.
A typical example of this belief is the legend of the Yaobikuni, which has several local variations, yet the stories are quite similar: Once upon a time, a father brought back the meat of a mermaid, which he was given at a party as a souvenir. He did not eat it since he thought it looked sinister. However, his daughter stealthily

ate it. After that she had immortality and her looks did not change as she grew older. She always looked young. However, at the age of 800, she finally became sick of the world, as well as her damned life. She went into a cave and disappeared from this world forever.

In Okinawa and the southwest isles region, mermaids Most of these were called Zan-no-io or Yonatama. legends are of the mermaid caught by a fisherman. When he tried to cook and eat it that night, a great tsunami attacked and ruined the village.

A similar revenge story can be seen in the book Shokokurijindan. The story goes that a fisherman found and killed a mermaid with a human head, crest-like frill at its neck, and a fish's tail and body. Later a horrible windstorm and earthquake destroyed the village.

On the other hand, stories about repaying kindness According to a book of natural history, also exist.

Kouyamatohonzou, written by Naomi, Genshu, in 1759, a fisherman released a netted mermaid at Lake Biwa (see Map), who, three years later, returned to him in the form of a 17- or 18-year-old girl and gave him a grey ball, which predicted the events to occur three days later. He became rich, thanks to that ball.

Other than these, various legends remain in many places, many about the marriage of a man and a mermaid. Most of these marriages, though, ended tragically when the identity of the mermaid was exposed.

Japanese According to and legends, archives mermaids, which are sometimes called Hatsugyo ("hair fish"), were not usually observed in the sea, but mostly reported as having been netted by fishermen. Generally, they looked grotesque and their appearances were thought to have been an evil omen, since they most often appeared before a coming storm.

OBSERVATIONS

In 1800, one mermaid was reported to have been caught in a river in Osaka. It was one meter long and cried like a baby. From this description some now suggest that it was a pinniped - a seal, for example.

In September 1929, on the Sukumou coast (see Map), Kouchi prefecture, a "mermaid-like" creature was reported to have been netted. It weighed 80 kilos (~180 pounds) and looked very grotesque - it had a dog's head, human face, and fish's tail. It was about the most recent report and since then there have been almost no observations, thus almost nobody in Japan now believes in its existence.

MUMMIES

Although we may not be able to see a real mermaid, we can imagine what they looked like from the various mummies of mermaids. Though they are artificial ones, made of a monkey's body and a fish's tail, it is a sophisticated technique worth seeing. (Editor's note: We call these things "Jenny Hannivers" or other similar names.) They were mostly made as souvenirs for the foreigners. It is said that about 30 mummies still remain somewhere in Japan - I am tracing them now.

Here is a list of four well-known examples in Japan:
1.
At the Tetsuganji Temple, Osaka - about 120 cm (~4 feet) long with some black hair remaining. It is said that a merchant from Osaka brought it back from China in 1616, along with the mummies of a kappa and a dragon, and offered them to this temple. Although 350 years or more have passed, it never rots, though they do not show it anymore to prevent damage.
2.
At
3.
Museum,
Hashimoto
Local
City
the
Wakayama prefecture - about 60 cm (~2 feet) long. It is supposed to be the aforementioned one caught in the Gamou River in 617.
At the Kannonshouji Temple, Shiga prefecture about 1,400 years ago, when Shoutokutaishi, an ancient politician, stayed at Ishiyamadera Temple near Lake Biwa, this mermaid appeared and said that he had been a fisherman before. Due to a killing he made during his life, he was transformed into such a shape as punishment. He died after he asked Shoutokutaishi to use his grotesque body as a warning to the people not to
Shoutokutaishi
commit a worthless killing.
sympathized with him and offered his remains to this temple with a statue of Kannon (one of the Buddistic gods).

[PAGE BREAK]

4.
At the temple of the Tenshoukyou religion, Shizuoka prefecture-about 1.7 meters (~5% feet) long. The story of its origin is almost the same as

that of the mummy at the Kannonshouji Temple. However, since many ominous things had happened in the temples which possessed this mummy, it was passed on and on, until the founder of this religion stopped those sinister happenings and brought it back to this temple. According to the evaluation made by the former director of the National Museum of Science, the late Kaname Okada, the identity of this mummy was unknown.

Biwa Lake

Subumou coast

Fig. 6. Locations of Mummies

Theories & Ideas

DECEPTIONS: ANCIENT AND MODERN

The Hodag

by Hugh H. Trotti

Daniel Cohen's book The Encyclopedia of Monsters (Dorset Press, New York, 1989) contains an account of an interesting animal named "the hodag" (pp. 240-242). This creature had no joints in its legs and had a habit of sleeping with its body leaning against a tree; if it ever did lay down it could never get up again, as its jointless legs prevented its rising. It could be captured by cutting part way through its "sleeping tree", so that when it leaned there for its night's rest the tree would give way, cause it to fall and become helpless.

The habitat of this unlikely creature was Wisconsin swampland. Cohen traces the odd jointless legs to an account of an herbivorous creature in the works of the ancient Roman author Pliny. In more recent times, one "hodag" was apparently manufactured through the expedient of putting a cowhide sprinkled with spikes on top of a dog, then displaying the result in a cage for the curious to view.

We can take Cohen's account of the origin of the "jointless legs" to another possible origin. His account of Wisconsin's hodag may demonstrate that people in Wisconsin in the early 20th Century had a good classical education-for there is an account in Julius Caesar's Gallic War (Random House "Modern Library" ed., 1957, Book VI, No. 27, p. 141) that gives an almost identical description. The odd creature mentioned there is the "elk which inhabited the vast and mysterious Hercynian Forest, which stretched from the Atlantic shores of Europe to the steppes of what is now Russia. Caesar's account goes on:

"Hunters who track them to their haunts loosen the roots of the trees or cut through them... and when the elk lean against them, their weight brings the weakened trunk down and they collapse with it."

...

We might mention here that the creature Americans and Canadians call the "moose" is what is called the "elk" in Europe. An ancient woodsman or hunter once told a "tall tale" that was believed and incorporated by the old authors in their works. Such an amusing "joke-tale" seems harmless enough, but there are other descriptions that may have played important roles in history.

Alexander the Great Deceived?

There were only a few oracles in the ancient classical world that had major reputations. One of these was located at the Siwah oasis in Libya. It predicted the future from a location in the interior, quite a few days' travel through difficult desert conditions. It was consulted by Alexander the Great after his seizure of Egypt and before his campaigns into the interior of the Persian Empire--and then even further.

The exact nature of what was conveyed to Alexander at the Siwah Oracle is unknown, since part of his interview was in private. It is thought that he asked if all his father's murderers had been punished and it is believed that he was told to which deities to offer sacrifice in the future. It is known that he was greeted as divine-but, since he had assumed the role of Egypt's pharaoh, that was not a surprising thing-and as pharaoh he was entitled to such status and title. Past these few surmises, nothing is known of what he was told in his interview, though he had written his mother that he had learned something important that he would tell her when next they met. (They never did, since he died before ever seeing Macedonia again.)

Some scholars have thought that the Siwah Oracle pronouncements were given by the movements of a carried boat or statue; the movements of the item carried by priests being interpreted to mean different things-perhaps of a "yes" or "no" variety. But there were also buildings at this site of prognostication.

What is interesting in this matter of the Siwah Oracle is ago, the magazine Archaeology ran a short article on the the nature of the building used by the oracle. Some years was a
ruins of the site. In the oasis where it was located, there building with a false wall, containing a passage
allowing a priest of the oracle to walk along secretly behind a room wall. It is thought that such a person could give mysterious utterances, perhaps through a chink in the wall Such a "god's voice" would
or from behind a statue.
assuredly impress visitors deeply. Did such an event happen to Alexander? Was he encouraged to proceed in his career and promised success after success without any failure? In any event, he did go on to "discover" India and many strange lands and peoples, and his campaigns did affect history.

Incidentally, it is possible that Alexander himself performed a deception in the official accounts of his Battle of the Granicus. Peter Green, in his book Alexander of Macedon, 356-323 B.C. (University of California Press, 1991, pp. 508-511), proposes that Alexander was first rebuffed at the Granicus River and had the account written in such a way that no initial failure took place. Green's view has the virtue of explaining a fact that scholars have found puzzling: The odd nature of the Persian riverbank defense, using cavalry instead of infantry. It would also give a good motive for his treatment of the Greek mercenary infantry serving with Persian force-and if the infantry had in fact repulsed his initial headlong charge, killing many of his friends, and had forced him to cross the river at a different place, this could explain why his cavalry was met only by the Persian cavalry. (The infantry would likely not be able to move quickly enough to Alexander's new crossing point.) In the Asia Minor beginning of his campaign against Persia, the image of invincibility would be helpful, in the attitude of local towns as well as in troop morale.

The Blockage of the Straits of Gibraltar

The Straits of Gibraltar or, to the ancients, "the Pillars of Hercules", were closed to shipping. The "mud flats" remaining from the sinking of "Atlantis" blocked any access to Atlantic, keeping the dwellers around the Mediterranean in ignorance of Europe's western coast, not to mention Scandinavia, Britain and Ireland. This rumor, or ancient "well-known fact" was false, of course. But the Phoenicians and perhaps the Carthaginians later, would have reinforced it and made the attempt to pass out into the ocean appear even more difficult. For a long time they possessed a monopoly of trade routes, which they kept secret. Whereas a possible deception at the Siwah Oracle may have led to the early European discovery of lands as far away as India, the story of the "silted up mouth" of the Mediterranean Sea facing the Atlantic Ocean would have discouraged discovery. It is ironic that there really may have been a difficulty in passing trough the Straits-especially for early ships that were either rowed or sailed: There is a current that enters the Mediterranean that works against ships trying to exit. (The ancient Phoenicians may have surmounted the difficulty of the current by using a deep "sea anchor" to catch a deeper current flowing [out] in the opposite direction.) The attitude of science is that of sharing data with everyone, with evidence available and widespread in an open manner. It is noteworthy that deceptions and secrecy have been practiced by serious businessmen, as well as charlatans, mountebanks and quacks

of various types.
Thus deception, while we know its adverse effects upon the health of its duped victims, has had perceptible historical effects in various directions of an unlikely or unexpected nature. Human progress has been affected, and the store of knowledge and belief has been affected by deceptions, hoaxes, and, perhaps, even by jokes.
The Cat's Meow
reason.
Our Strange World
by Kimberly Wajer
No new sightings of the Ottawa County panther have been reported in the last year, and perhaps with good
Cat experts from the Toledo Zoo have examined the photos produced of the mystery animal first spotted in late October 1989. From evidence such as shape of ears and length of tail they have determined the pictures to be of an overgrown domestic house cat.
Caught Bread-Handed
For quite some time now, crop circles have been appearing mysteriously in fields all over Great Britain. Some of these, however, now have an explanation. Art students have admitted to the creation of some of the phenomena. Are the perpetrators of the others soon to come forward?
Psychic Magic
On December 7, the University of Evansville had a
Kraig Karges, a "psychic magician'
unique visitor.
performed for the student body, combining stage magic with apparently genuine ESP.
He
He did a demonstration "based on" psychokinesis, which was the major stage magic portion of the show. The bulk of the show, however, revolved around ESP.
demonstrated ability at not only apparently reading things directly off the minds of members of the audience, but also through psychometry and automatic handwriting.
I was privileged enough not only to attend, but to go
I thought of a randomly
up on stage and participate.
generated four-digit number. He read the number from my mind and through illusion made it appear on an old-fashioned school slate held by another volunteer.
While he freely admits he "cheats a little", I believe he demonstrated some degree of real psychic ability. He also encourages his audiences to consider for themselves the reality of psychic phenomena and learn more about them.
a wonderful evening's
Besides, of course, giving us
entertainment. Bravo!

[PAGE BREAK]

Dear Mark:
Letters to the Editor
I am happy about the most recent improvements in Elsewhen's format and especially the typography. The smaller type will result in more space for articles submitted to Elsewhen. I am also glad that is has been finally possible for you to advertise in Fate.
I intend to send you a long and comprehensive letter regarding Elsewhen and its articles, including, above all, your own literary work and theories. However, in the meantime, I want to say that I enjoyed your article on your Iceland experience [Elsewhen #10]. I look forward to your articles on your trip abroad [to Great Britain]. I also liked Hugh H. Trotti's review of James Randi's The Mask of Nostradamus. I hope his reviews will be appearing regularly in Elsewhen.
I should probably remind you that when, in my articles, I write of OOBE's, my use of that term does not necessarily imply that one is actually out of one's (physical) body. It is convenient to use this expression. At this point in time it would be safer, more accurate and noncommittal to say one's extrasomesthetic experiences rather than out-of-body experiences. This is saying that one experiences sensations, usually multiple sensations and especially visual sensations, that suggest or indicate to him that he is out of his (physical) body. As we know, it has not yet been physical body.
conclusively established that one is actually out of his
To what extent telepathy and clairvoyance-I use the latter term in its general sense-play in out-of-body experiences we really do not know. However, if we deny that the extrasomatist is out of the physical body, we may be forced to consider that we may be dealing with a "hyper-dimension". Traveling clairvoyance, such as was allegedly experienced by the medium Eileen Garrett and the medical clairvoyant Edgar Cayce, suggest that one can be in two places at one time. This would be a true bilocation. There are astral body travel experiences that suggest that one can travel to his destination without traversing an irrelevant and superfluous intervening space.
This would be hyper-
dimensional travel-definitely a Fortean phenomenon!
Dear Mr. Gardner:
James Baker
Cleveland, OH
I wanted you to know how much I enjoyed our meeting in September [of last year]. I have always been interested in unexplained phenomena and enjoyed our discussion of this fascinating subject. Your ideas and theories were quite

intriguing.
You are
individuals-an open-minded skeptic.
one of those exceedingly.
Tate
You actually
those flying saucers (if they do, indeed, exist).
succeeded in changing my long-held belief on the origin of
I shall endeavour to continue my promised research
into some of the Fortean subjects we discussed on the train
from King's Cross to York.
It is a pity that you were
unable to visit us in our home on your return to London,
You must visit us on your next expedition to Great Britain
-soon, we hope. There are a number of strange and
bizarre things in the area I would very much like to show
you personally.
Unfortunately, I am not much of a writer outside of
basic correspondence.
Although I would very much
I welcome the opportunity to be published in your pages, I
will have to let those more capable do so.
I will send
material of interest to you at periodic intervals.
Best of luck to you from the Mrs. and myself.
Hello!
J. Higgins
Doncaster, England
In Elsewhen #11, on page 16, number "5" topic, you
say that universes branching off at points of change is
"science fiction fantasy.
Now, I am not arguing with you here, but the real,
honest-to-goodness establishment physicists consider the
branching off of universes to be a very real possibility (not
do).
all of them, of course, but many of the most respected ones
I do not bring this up to argue, but simply because I
think you might want to get the book Other Worlds by Paul
Davies (a respected, world-class physicist). ISBN: 0-671-
42232-4. I think you might want to read this science "non-
fiction" before trashing the idea completely.
B. Warring
Charlottesville, VA
I do not trash the idea of branching-off universes
completely, but find it extremely unlikely for quite
practical reasons: Where does all of the matter come
each branching-off point??? Unless you are willing to
from to create another, not-quite-identical universe at
embrace a divine explanation, this seems to be the
insurmountable obstacle to that theory. I have read
the above-mentioned book and some 20-30 others
from all directions, some impossibly technical, and

I have never found a clear answer to where all the
matter would come from to create each new universe
I think that the idea that for every important
"decision-point" in history there is a node where each
possibility splits off and creates its own universe has
a great romantic appeal, but belongs more in the
camp of the philosophers and dreamers, than with

at turning points in history.
realistic physical laws
- The Editor.
O
RESEARCH TIPS
FORTEAN RESEARCH ON A BUDGET:
Tip #4 - Low Cost Writing Supplies
by Gary S. Mangiacopra
Since you now have an amateur status as a fortean
investigator and hopeful writer, what you must now
consider is how to keep your stationary costs at a minimum
and yet appear as professional as possible. For appearances
are very important, when making inquiries of witnesses and
professionals you are trying to contact. By appearing
professional, you will get a far better response from them.
Thus, you must use professional supplies and not the
kind of stationary supplies that you might find at the local
K-Mart or other bargain store. The business stationary I
have found has varied widely from store to store.
A
As an example: The paper I use for typing or important
communication is 25% cotton fiber content, bond, heavy
weight, regular finish, and comes 500 sheets to a package.
Prices have ranged from $19.00 a box to as low as $9.99
(or half price). You may consider that one box is sufficient
to last for a long time. This is an assumption that I made,
only to see the package depleted in a relatively short time.
Another thing is the typewriter or printer ribbon that
one needs, depending on the make of your typewriter or
I used, as another example, a Smith-
word processor.
Corona cartridge H series for my word processor.
double pack can run as high as $10.00 and as low as $6.50.
Using a compatible, off-name brand can be even a dollar
less. It must be remembered that one cartridge will give
you about 50 pages of double-spaced print.
One would consider that this is an
Envelopes:
inexpensive item. It isn't. As I exchange data with other
researchers and submit articles for publication, I have to use
the 9 X 12 size. Cost per envelope can run from 25¢ to as
When one sends out-over a year-several
low as 7c.
dozen of these envelopes, the cost for these supplies alone

can be a tidy sum.
And this does not take into consideration paper clips, labels, small-size envelopes, and anything else you may need.
need, saved several hundred dollars in supplies. Such savings there allowed me to divert research funds to other needed long-term projects that I am investigating and would have been forced to place on hold until the funds became available.
Admittedly, such penny-pinching antics may amuse the reader, but let me remind you: Until you start doing active research, instead of just reading about it, you cannot appreciate the drain on one's personal finances.
As an active fortean since 1972, I saw how the decade of the 1970s was perhaps the best decade for the amount of data exchanged from one researcher to another. The early recession of the 1980s literally caused a crash of such free exchange of data that it has never recovered. I fear that the 1990s may be even worse with everyone concerned with cutting costs even further. Any fortean pursuits would be the first "unnecessary" luxury item to be curtailed when one's standard of living is reduced. This has happened to many forteans that I know.
So here is another penny-wise suggestion to stretch your dollar even further: If your area has an office supplies warehouse store, go there and save. And one more tip for savings: Look around and find-it's usually in the back of the store-the section with slightly damaged or discontinued items. Occasionally, you can find an item or supplies at far cheaper prices than they are normally sold for!
So how do you cut costs? As one who used to pay the higher prices locally at the stores that had the supplies I needed, the amount started to rise far more than I had
Then a new concept of selling office
expected to pay.
supplies started a few years ago. Here on the East Coast we have STAPLES, the warehouse concept of selling office supplies at prices one half or even less than I have seen elsewhere. I have literally, since I go there for whatever I
NEWS
Now the News...
an experiment with including interesting
I am going to try
newsclippings I find and that are sent in by the readers. Let me know what you think of this idea. I will probably retype them.
HUMANS REPORTEDLY CAUSED THE EXTINCTION OF MAMMOTHS FROM THE PLANET
LONDON (MAY 5) DPA - Humans caused the extinction of mammoth populations in such regions as North America and not the increasingly colder Ice Age climate, Cambridge archeologist Steven Mithen said in the latest issue of the British magazine New Scientist.

The archeologist based his findings on computer simulated research of a small group of 100 people who were the first settlers in North America.
As the human population increased and spread over the millennia, they hunted and survived off the mammoth, without endangering it as a species.
Once the human population exceded the critical number of 12 million, however, the mammoths were hunted out to the point of extinction in less than a few decades, Mithen said.

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EXPLAINED!
An Introduction
by Bufo Calvin
Welcome to a new series of articles for Elsewhen! I am proud and honored to join the other regular contributors to this exploratory forum. Although the magazine is expanding its horizons, this space will have a rather narrow focus. I will be applying the tenets of a hypothesis which says that many Fortean (strange, patterned) events can be explained through the operation of temporal anomalies (instances in which time seems to behave in a discontinuous manner-in other words, time doesn't always march on, sometimes it 'jitterbugs') to "solve" classic mysteries of the weird and bizarre.
First, a word of thanks to Mark Gardner, your erstwhile editor. It was an article of his in this magazine which inspired me to develop my "Free Floating Theory of Time Travel." His ideas on time particles enabled me to put together some ideas which I am currently putting into book form. May he also be your inspiration.
Now, just what is the theory? The most important elements are these: Time travel is natural, not artificial; it can be predicted; and it is never permanent.
These basic laws are the foundation for a series of lesser laws, some of which I am in the process of testing through data analysis. The bottom line is that time travel could be exploited by anyone with enough data, the right math, and the wherewithal to get to the point of occurrence at the proper time.
Most time travelers, however, are unintentional visitors. The briefly seen dinosaur in the cornfield didn't chose to pop forward; the 20th Century man who visits Victorian England didn't plan his retrograde trip.
As we sit here in 1992, this type of surprise voyage is the only avenue available to us. It will take a great deal of effort to discover the patterns [of time], if they indeed even exist. Join me in future issues on an expedition of extrapolation, a safari of speculation, a mission of the mind, and perhaps we will make the discoveries which will free us

from the notion that time is like an avalanche, sweeping us along uncontrollably in its course. We may not find the answers, but I guarantee all of you that we will see some interesting sights...in time.

Theories & Ideas

Evidence of Early Super-Culture in Jeopardy?

by Hugh Trotti

Was there once a "super civilization" earlier than our own, that for one reason or another may have vanished from the earth? Claims of "Atlantis" and "Mu" come to mind.

The great proponderance of what we know-one is tempted to say "everything we know"-points to a progression from the more primitive to the less primitive throughout time. Nevertheless, some people insist that there may have been very early achievements greater even than our own, and knowledge superior to ours, that was lost forever.

Various pieces of evidence surface in the writings of such believers from time to time. One interesting item of this type is the lens said to have been found by archaeologists at the site of ancient Babylon in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Would such a find represent early telescopes, microscopes or accessories to provide energy to a giant crystal of mysterious and powerful properties?

Monday evening, on the TV game show Jeopardy! (shown on Atlanta's Channel 5, a CBS affiliate, January 20, 1992), information was provided that the ancient Greeks used a lens to start fires. We know that Alexander the Great and his army occupied Babylon in the 4th Century B.C., and his successors remained in the area after his death. We know that Greeks visited the court of Persia's Great King before Alexander's time.

Some even lived there, as Herodotus'
accounts show.

Clearly, a lens will concentrate sunlight enough to create fire in proper materials. We also know that glass was available in Roman times and before. While not vouching for the scholarly credentials of the Jeopardy! program or for the story of the lens, it does seem that such a find would not produce a startling or incomprehensible thing. Perhaps such seeming anomalies would not appear so strange if we only knew enough. In any event, we here produce a simple explanation for a "strange" item, in keeping with our belief that many times it is possible to give reasonabl and simple explanations of "mysteries", and in the belief that such is a more convincing way of treating various "far-out" claims than making fun of them. Satire may be fun, but it does not exhaust our possibilities of response.

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Page 16
Page 17

[PAGE BREAK]

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